

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A solid-state imaging apparatus, comprising:
 - a solid-state image sensor having a plurality of light receiving elements arrayed thereon, for accumulating in each of the plurality of light receiving elements information charges according to a received object image;
 - a driving circuit for discharging the information charges accumulated in each of the plurality of light receiving elements of the solid-state image sensor for every vertical scanning period, and for outputting, after a predetermined period, information charges accumulated in each of the plurality of light receiving elements whereby an image signal according to the information charges is obtained;
 - first exposure information generating circuit for detecting a level of the image signal in a predetermined cycle to generate first exposure information which is increased or decreased based on a detection result;
 - second exposure information generating circuit for calculating second exposure information based on the current level of the image signal;
 - selecting circuit for selecting either the first exposure information or the second exposure information; and
 - timing control circuit for setting discharge timing and output timing to the driving circuit;
- wherein

the first exposure information generating circuit generates the first exposure information based on the second exposure information during a predetermined period, and

the selecting circuit selects the second exposure information during a the predetermined period, and subsequently selects the first exposure information.

2. (Original): A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the selection circuit continuously selects the second exposure information during a predetermined period in response to rise of power.

3. (Original): A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the selecting circuit continuously selects the second exposure information during a predetermined period in response to a trigger given at a desired timing.

4. (Currently Amended): A solid-state imaging apparatus, comprising:
a solid-state image sensor having a plurality of light receiving elements arrayed thereon, for accumulating in each of the plurality of light receiving elements information charges according to a received object image;
a driving circuit for discharging the information charges accumulated in each of the plurality of light receiving elements of the solid-state image sensor for every vertical scanning period, and for subsequently resuming accumulation of the information charges in each of the plurality of light receiving elements to read, after a period according to exposure information, the information charges accumulated whereby an image signal according to the information charges is obtained;
a level detection circuit for detecting a brightness level of an image based on the image signal;

first exposure information generating circuit for comparing the brightness level and a predetermined brightness reference value according to suitable exposure condition to generate first exposure information which is increased or decreased based on a comparison result;

second exposure information generating circuit for calculating second exposure information according to a predetermined target brightness level based on a current brightness level and current exposure information;

selecting circuit for selecting either the first exposure information of the second exposure information; and

timing control circuit for setting a discharge timing and a read timing for the information charges to be discharged and read from the driving circuit, respectively;

wherein

the first exposure information generating circuit generates the first exposure information based on the second exposure information during a predetermined period, and

the selection circuit selects the second exposure information during a the predetermined period, and subsequently selects the first exposure information.

5. (Original): A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the selection circuit continuously selects the second exposure information during a predetermined period in response to rise of power.

6. (Original): A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the selecting circuit continuously selects the second exposure information during a predetermined period in response to a trigger given at a desired timing.

Appl. No. 09/512,754

Attorney Docket No. 005586-20033 (81784.0025)

Amdt. Dated:

Customer No.: 26021

Reply to Office Action of February 11, 2004

7. (Previously Presented): A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the second exposure information generating circuit continuously generates the second exposure information for every vertical scanning period during at least the predetermined period.

8. (Original): A solid-state imaging apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the first exposure information generating circuit updates the first exposure information every vertical scanning period.